

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS COMMITTEE**

May 6, 2009  
MAG Cholla Room, 2nd Floor  
302 North First Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Scott Nodes, ADOT	*Luke Albert, City of Goodyear
Soyoung Ahn, ASU	Nicolaas Swart, Maricopa County
Gus Woodman, City of Avondale	Jeff Jenq, City of Mesa
**Thomas Chlebanowski, Town of Buckeye	Ron Amaya, City of Peoria
Mike Mah, City of Chandler	Marshall Riegel, City of Phoenix
Mike Lockhart, DPS	Bob Ciotti, Phoenix Public Transit
Jerry Horacek City of El Mirage	Michael Pacelli, Town of Queen Creek
Jennifer Brown for Alan Hansen, FHWA	Bruce Dressel, City of Scottsdale
Kurt Sharp, Town of Gilbert	** John Abraham, City of Surprise
Avery Rhodes for Debbie Albert, City of Glendale	* Jim Decker, City of Tempe
	* Arkady Bernshteyn, Valley Metro Rail

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Alan Hansen, FHWA	Darrell Bingham, ADOT
Fanzana Yasmin, ADOT	Lydia Warnick, ADOT
T Mowery-Racz, ADOT	Faisal Saleem, MCDOT
Derrick Bailey, City of Mesa	Madhuri Uddaraju, City of Phoenix
David Haines, KHA	Gary Rylander, Rylander Consulting
Jay Yenerich, Telvent	Paul Ward, Olsson Associates
Arnab Gupta, Telvent	Marta Gerber, Olsson Associates
John Grant, TransCore	Yung Cossar, Morrison Maierle
Bill Meador, Power&Tel.	Don Wiltshire, Y.S. Mantri
Michael Wendtland, ITS Engineers	Dan Hartig, Ayres Associates
Bob Grodsky, ENS	Armand Ciccarelli, PBS&J
Ashish Agrawal, AMEC	Joe Marcuson, Jacobs
Sarath Joshua, MAG	Kiran Guntupalli, MAG
Leo Luo, MAG	

\*Not present

\*\* Via teleconference

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Mike Mah called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

2. Approval of April 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Nicholaas Swart moved, Marshall Riegel seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve minutes of the meeting held on April 1, 2009.

3. Call to Audience

Chairman Mike Mah made a call to the audience providing an opportunity to any members of the public to address the ITS Committee. No comments were received.

4. Program Manager's Report

Sarath Joshua addressed the following items in his report:

- **RCN Activities**

Lydia Warnick was requested to provide an update on the MAG RCN Phase 1A project being implemented by ADOT. The Fiber and Conduit project has been extended to June 12<sup>th</sup>. ITS Engineers was selected as the Active Electronic Project Turn-Key solution provider. The first year warranty for the RCN system will start at the end of this year or early next year after the Active Electronic project has been completed. Sarath Joshua mentioned that the RCN Governance document was approved by the MAG Regional Council. He thanked ITS committee members who help explaining the project to the management at their individual agencies to make the approval process move forward smoothly. Also mentioned was that Ryan Gish from ADOT will be coordinating with all RCN agencies for Camera Chameleon installation and testing.

- **FY2009 Federal Funds TIP Closeout**

Based on requests received by MAG during the close-out application process, five ITS projects are being deferred, five projects are requesting additional funds, and five new ITS projects, one new design project, two design projects for projects that are already programmed, one project advancement and four project advancement with additional funding request were submitted. A request of \$500,000 from the ITS Committee decision seeking TSOP project funding is among the five projects requesting additional funds.

- **ATRC research project call for vote**

The ADOT research center has called for voting on the proposed ITS research projects. Proposals have been distributed to all committee members. Members were encouraged to submit their vote.

- **USDOT Research and Innovative Administration has released a Request for Public Comments on the National ITS Program.**

The comments on the National ITS Program are due on May 20, 2009. Members representing local agencies were encouraged to provide comments.

5. Request to modify project limits for the City of Mesa project MES10-810

Jeff Jenq from City of Mesa distributed a memo requesting changes to the project limits of an ITS project in the TIP. Due to a fiber path already built by a private company the City of Mesa now has fiber and conduit along a segment along Southern Avenue from San Jose to Extension Road. This project originally programmed as MES10-810 has been effectively completed with other resources. Therefore, the City of Mesa would like to modify the original project limits as stated in MES10-810 to include a new segment of 1.5 miles of conduit and fiber along Guadalupe Road between Dobson Road and Extension Road to fully utilize the available federal funding. This would enhance Mesa's ITS communications

towards to same original project goal. Marshall Riegel moved, Michael Pacelli seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the request to modify the project limit for the City of Mesa project MES10-810.

6. TSOP Program and Future Projects

Sarath Joshua mentioned that the MAG Regional Synchro Training held in MCDOT received very good comments from participating members. Based on the past experience on the time taken to process contracts, MAG is planning to announce a call for projects, for the next round of TSOP, in June and start launching the projects in September. He also mentioned that an article on the benefits of the TSOP program was published in the MAG newsletter--MAGazine.

7. Draft RCN Roles and Responsibilities

TransCore has been selected to help finalize the Draft RCN Roles and Responsibilities document that was prepared by the RCN Working Group. The document is intended to provide policy as well as daily operation and management guidance. John Grant from TransCore mentioned that they are reviewing the draft document and will provide a new draft to MAG by May 25, 2009. This draft will be distributed to the ITS Committee members for review as well. TransCore will participate in the next RCN Working Group meeting via conference call to address any questions. A workshop has been planned for June 16<sup>th</sup> to finalize this document. ITS committee members suggested that it would be convenient to hold the workshop in the afternoon from 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

8. I-10 ICMS Modeling Effort

Sarath Joshua reminded committee members of the effort in 2007 that developed a Concept of Operations for I-10 Integrated Corridor Management System. Although the request from MAG to the USDOT for federal funding was not successful, member agencies are utilizing existing resources such as TSOP to implement some of the strategies identified in the Concept of Operations. Leo Luo briefly reviewed the history of the project and explained the purpose of the I-10 ICMS. He also mentioned that a meso-scopic simulation model is being utilized at other sites that were selected by the USDOT. Through this model, MAG intends to evaluate the impact to traffic operations due to I-10 construction as well as the effectiveness of some of the strategies. Initial simulation results were presented. Jeff Jenq asked if there are any specific strategies that have been identified. Sarath Joshua mentioned that detailed strategies would need to be identified in the later stage. Leo Luo also mentioned that the traffic signal optimization on arterial streets along I-10 can be one strategy to be evaluated. Sarath Joshua pointed out that the efforts spent on I-10 can be duplicated on any other corridors in the future. Jeff Jenq confirmed with Leo that the model can simulate the difference between long-term and short-term route choice and departure times.

9. Travel Time Reliability

Sarath Joshua mentioned that a lot of resources are put into the studies of travel time reliability at national level and at TRB. Many transportation agencies are starting to look at travel time reliability as an important systemwide performance measure. Alan Hansen from FHWA pointed out that TTI produces a travel time reliability report for most metropolitan area. Most of the data from the report is based on the ADOT FMS data. Chairman Mike Mah asked where to obtain the report. Alan mentioned that FHWA receives the report on monthly basis. Sarath mentioned that the average travel time is not a good indicator for travel time

reliability. For example, 85% and 90% percentile are also used as well as buffer index and planning time index. He also showed how travel time and reliability information are displayed on the Washington DOT webpage. Some of the “unreliable” factors that contribute to the unreliability in travel time were also identified. Sarath confirmed with Jeff Jenq on the historical average travel time seems to be the comparison basis for the Washington DOT website. He also asked if there is any arterial travel time information were available in the region. Faisal Saleem from MCDOT mentioned that Maricopa County currently did not have travel time information, but some of the detectors on arterial streets could provide the information. Chairman Mike Mah mentioned that City of Chandler conducted travel time studies on all city arterials from AM, PM and Off-peak period. They are also trying to repeat the effort every two years. A member of the audience, Armand Ciccarelli from PBS&J, mentioned that travel time reliability study also requires extensive historical data. He went on to mention the MAG congestion management process and performance measures study. Sarath Joshua and Armand agreed to make the MAG performance measurement report available to the committee members when the project is completed.

10. Status Reports by Committee Members on ITS Activities

Jeff Jenq from Mesa briefly mentioned that the signal priority projects related to the two BRT projects. He also mentioned the on-going effort to upgrade the Icons central control system. Alan Hansen officially announced that Jennifer Brown will be representing FHWA at the ITS Committee. Nicolaas Swart from MCDOT announced the Arterial ATIS Enhancement Workshop, which is funded by MAG, to be held in Maricopa County. Committee members can contact Cynthia to make reservation. Ron Amaya reported on the progress of the Peoria TMC project and the wireless & fiber optic hybrid communications project. Scott Nodes distributed the new ADOT FMS Design Guideline to the committee members. An electronic version of the guideline will be forwarded to committee members when it is ready. David Haines from Kimley-Horn Associates highlighted several key changes in the guideline. In discussing vehicle detectors he implied that Passive Acoustic Detectors may be used on future FMS projects. Sarath Joshua objected to this statement pointing out that MAG and ADOT had agreed that PADs will no longer be used on the FMS as they have been proven to be a total failure. Scott Nodes provided a clarification and stated that Passive Acoustic Detectors will not be installed on future new FMS projects. He indicated that any new detector type would have to be approved by the ADOT new products evaluation process. Chairman Mike Mah asked if the FMS Design Guidelines provide guidance on the operation of FMS. David Haines mentioned it is mostly for design, construction and maintenance. Sarath Joshua commented that the spacing of the loop detectors should be left open and not fixed at one mile spacing all across the system regardless of the need for vehicle detection for appropriate traffic management actions. He cited the ADOT’s ATRC adaptive ramp metering project as an example for a clear need for applying more closely spaced detection. He also briefly explained the intent of the research project in response to a question from Chairman Mike Mah. A few members expressed concerns about ramp metering and its interaction with arterial streets. Marshall Riegel reported progress of the City of Phoenix’s communications project to connect all the traffic signals in the city. John Abraham reported that the TMC of the City of Surprise was scheduled to be open with tours scheduled on May 14, 2009.

11. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting date was announced at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3, 2009.

12. Adjournment

Chairman Mike Mah adjourned the meeting at 11:27 PM.